

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims, with claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-12 and 15-16 as currently amended, is set forth below:

1. (Currently amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, the multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly having (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, and (b) ~~detachable~~ extension tubes each having ~~a first a~~ proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end selectively attachable to the distal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube, the method comprising the steps of:

making an insertion incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near said insertion incision;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel; [[and]]

subsequent to routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel, attaching the first the proximal end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube to the distal portion of the catheter tube; and

attaching the distal end of each extension tube to a hemodialysis fluid circulation device.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, the catheter tube having at least a first lumen and a second lumen, ~~the first~~ the proximal end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube comprising a cannula, each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the step of attaching ~~the first~~ the proximal end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube to the distal portion of the catheter tube further comprising of the step of:

inserting the proximal portion of each cannula into each of the first lumen and second lumen at the distal portion of the catheter tube to create fluid communication between each cannula and the first lumen and the second lumen.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, the first lumen having a first indicator associated therewith, and the second lumen having a second indicator associated therewith, wherein the step of inserting the cannula into the lumens further comprising the steps of:

matching the first indicator associated with the first lumen with an indicator associated with one of the cannula; and

matching the second indicator associated with the second lumen with an indicator associated with the other cannula.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising of the steps of:

engaging a clamp engaged with each extension tube to prevent fluid flow therethrough; and

disengaging the clamp to allow fluid from through each extension tube.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of attaching ~~the first~~ the proximal end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube to the distal portion of the catheter tube is preceded by:

gripping ~~the first~~ the proximal end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube by a gripping portion sized such that fingers may grip and manipulate ~~the first~~ the proximal end of the ~~detachable~~ extension tubes.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein each detachable extension tube has a second end, the step of attaching the first end of each detachable extension tube to the distal portion of the catheter tube is followed by: connecting a connector attached to the distal end of each connection tube to ease the step of~~ attaching the second distal end of each detachable extension tube to a hemodialysis fluid circulation device.

7. (Currently amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly is comprised of (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal portion, the catheter tube having a first lumen and a second lumen, (b) a first and second ~~attachable~~ extension tube each having at a proximal end thereof a cannula, each of the cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the method comprising the steps of:

making an insertion incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the insertion incision;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel; [[and]]

subsequent to routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel, attaching the proximal portion of each cannula to the distal portion of the catheter tube; and

attaching a distal end of each extension tube to a hemodialysis fluid circulation device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising of the steps of:

engaging a clamp disposed about the extension tube to prevent fluid flow therethrough; and disengaging the clamp to allow fluid flow through the extension tube.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of attaching the cannula of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube to the distal portion of the catheter tube is preceded by:

gripping the first end of each ~~detachable~~ extension tube by a gripping portion sized such that a fingers may grip and manipulate the cannula of each ~~detachable~~ extension tubes.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising a connector
~~wherein attached to each detachable extension tube has a tube distal end, the step~~
~~of attaching the cannula of each detachable extension tube to the distal portion of~~
~~the catheter tube is followed by:~~

 ~~correcting the distal end of each detachable extension tube to a fluid~~
~~circulation device.~~
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of attaching the
cannula to the catheter tube further comprising of the steps of:

 inserting the proximal portion of the cannula of the first attachable
extension tube into the first lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, and
inserting the proximal portion of the cannula of the second attachable extension
tube into the second lumen of the distal portion of the catheter tube, to create
fluid communication between the cannula of the first ~~attachable~~ extension tube
and the first lumen and the cannula of the second ~~attachable~~ extension tube and
the second lumen.
12. (Currently amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter
assembly into an area to be catheterized, wherein the multi-lumen hemodialysis
catheter assembly is comprised of

 (a) a multi-lumen catheter tube with a distal portion and a proximal
portion, the catheter tube having at least a first lumen and a second lumen,

 (b) an attachable hub assembly, the hub assembly having [[a]]

(i) a hub body being formed about a first cannula and a second cannula, each cannula having a proximal portion and a distal portion,

(ii) ~~[[an]]~~ a first extension tube attached to the distal portion of the first cannula in fluid communication therewith and a second extension tube attached to the distal portion of the second cannula in fluid communication therewith, ~~each lumen and each extension tube~~ the first lumen and the first extension tube having ~~[[an]]~~ a first indicator associated therewith, the second lumen and the second extension tube having a second indicator associated therewith, the second indicator being easily distinguishable from the first indicator;

the method comprising the steps of:

making an insertion incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near the insertion incision;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel;

matching the indicator associated with each lumen with the corresponding indicator associated with each extension tube; and

attaching the proximal portion of the cannula to the distal portion of the catheter tube.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising of the steps of:

engaging a clamp disposed about the extension tube to prevent fluid flow therethrough; and

disengaging the clamp to allow fluid flow through the extension tube.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of attaching the proximal portion of each cannula to the distal portion of the catheter tube is preceded by the step of:

gripping the first end of each extension tube by a gripping portion sized such that a typical persons finger could grip and easily manipulate the cannula of each extension tube.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein each extension tube has a ~~second~~ distal end, the step of attaching the proximal portion of each cannula to the distal portion of the catheter tube is followed by the step of:

connecting the ~~second~~ distal end of each extension tube to a fluid circulation device.

16. (Currently amended) A method for inserting a multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly into an area to be catheterized, the multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly having a multi-lumen catheter tube having a distal portion and a proximal portion, the method comprising the steps of:

making an insertion incision near the area to be catheterized;

inserting the proximal portion of the multi-lumen catheter tube into the area to be catheterized;

creating a subcutaneous tunnel having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the subcutaneous tunnel is near said insertion incision;

routing the distal portion of the catheter tube through the subcutaneous tunnel beginning at the first end and exiting through the second end of the subcutaneous tunnel; [[and]]

attaching the distal portion of the catheter tube to a device which supplies fluid to one lumen of the multi-lumen catheter and withdraws fluid from a different lumen of the multi-lumen catheter

conducting hemodialysis through the multi-lumen hemodialysis catheter assembly.